National Distribution Policy on foodgrains

1217. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the absence of any uniform National Distribution Policy of foodgrains people are starving in many States and huge surplus of foodgrains mounting with FCI; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Public Distribution System (PDS) has served the purpose of making available foodgrains at the household level in all regions of the country and its distribution throughout the country in a fair and equitable manner. In view of the abundant stocks of wheat and rice in the central pool, the steps taken by the Government of India to enhance food security are as under:—

(i) The entitlement for BPL families was raised from 10kg. per family per month to 20 kg. per family per month from April 2000 and further to 25 kg. per family per month w.e.f. 12.7.2001.

(ii) In November 2000, it was decided to make foodgrains available at CIPs applicable for BPL families for all the welfare schemes including SC/ST/OBC hostels, implemented by the various Ministries of the Government of India.

(iii) In November, 2000, a decision was taken to make foodgrains available at BPL rates for allotment to State Governments @ 5 kg. per head per month for covering categories of indigent people living in welfare institutions, such as beggar homes, orphanages/Nari Niketans, etc. sponsored by the State Governments and the concerned administrative Ministry of the Government of India.

(iv) In November, 2000, another decision was taken to make foodgrains available at BPL rates for development schemes (where the beneficiaries belong to the BPL category) implemented by

Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), sponsored by the State Governments and endorsed by the administrative Ministry in the Government of India, as also by international organizations like the World Food Programme.

(v) On 1.12.2000, the allocation of foodgrains for Below the Poverty Line (BPL) families was revised on the basis of population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000. As a result, the number of BPL families eligible for subsidised foodgrains has increased from 5.96 crores families to 6.52 crore families.

(vi) The Antyodaya Anna Yojana was announced on 25.12.2000 for one crore poorest of the poor BPL families. The scheme is under implementation in all States/UTs. Each of the Antyodaya families is given 25 kg. of foodgrains @ Rs. 2 per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3 per kg. for rice.

(vii) In January 2001, the Food for Work Programme was introduced under which foodgrains are allocated free of cost to various States by the Ministry of Rural Development. Government of India has allocated 38.33 lakh MTs of foodgrains, from January 2001 to 12.2.2002 for undertaking Food for Work programmes in 11 States. Government of India had allocated one lakh MTs of foodgrains for distribution in the earthquake-affected areas of Gujarat in January 2001.

(viii) In May 2001, Government of India decided to give additional allocation of foodgrains at BPL rates to the drought affected States for distribution to all the drought affected families (BPL & APL) @ 20 kg per family per month for a period of three months in the current financial year. The Govts. of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan have already been allocated additional foodgrains. The Govt. of Bihar has been given additional allocation of 1.80 lakh MTs of wheat at BPL rate for flood relief.

(ix) In spite of the rise in the economic cost of wheat and rice w.e.f. 1.4.2001, the CIP have not been increased for the BPL category. The CIPs have been retained at Rs. 4.15 per kg for wheat and Rs. 5.65 per kg for rice.

(x) The Central Issue Price (CIP) of wheat and rice for the APL category has been reduced w.e.f. 12.7.2001, which will be valid till 31.3.2002:

(Rs. per quintal)

	APL
Wheat	610
Rice	830

(xi) The Ministry of Rural Development has launched the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) on 25th September 2001 based on the announcement made by the Prime Minister on 15th August 2001. Under the programme, it is envisaged to utilize 50 lakh MTs of foodgrains every year. The allocation of foodgrains under SGRY upto 28.2.2002 has been 30.82 lakh MTs.

(xii) The Open Market Sale Scheme of wheat was continue during the current financial year 2001-2002. The quantity sold from April 2001 to 15.2.2002 was 37.87 lakh tonnes.

Requirement of Sugar Under PDS in Andhra Pradesh

1218. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the present requirement of levy Sugar of Andhra Pradesh for distribution to the eligible Consumers under PDS;

(b) whether the full requirement of the State is being released and lifted;

(c) if not, the gap between requirement and release; and

(d) the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d) The allocation of monthly levy sugar to the State of Andhra Pradesh (A.P.) is made on the basis of the projected population as on 01.03.2000 @ 500 grams per capita to the families belonging to the Below Poverty Line (BPL). Accordingly, the present monthly allocation of levy sugar of State of